



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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February 26, 2013

Senator Terry Gerratana  
Representative Susan Johnson  
Public Health Committee  
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Terry Gerratana, Representative Susan Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on SB 298 AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR DAY CARE FACILITY LICENSES. I am pleased the committee has seen fit to raise this bill for a public hearing.

This bill came to me at the request of my constituent Malissa Griffith of Enfield, who could not be here today to testify in support of this proposal because she could not close her daycare for the day. Malissa runs a very popular home daycare in Enfield. This past fall Malissa contacted my office in need of assistance. Through human error, which we are all guilty of at times, she was four days late in mailing back her paperwork for renewal. Unfortunately for Ms. Griffith, no grace period currently exists in state statute for license renewal and my office was unable to help despite contacting the Department of Public Health on her behalf. As such she was forced to inform her parents that she could no longer care for their children, immediately. The inconvenience to these families was tremendous. As anyone who works full-time with young children knows, finding a caregiver you trust is no easy feat. Doing so on incredibly short notice is nearly impossible.

Malissa was told she would have to reapply for a license, starting from scratch including background checks, fingerprints and a site visit. Whereas four days prior she was a fully functioning, accredited and licensed facility she was now faced with weeks and possibly months

of closure while she navigated the licensure process. The prospect of this was devastating both emotionally and financially.

Fortunately for Malissa, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health extended the deadline and granted her renewal. She was able to open again without going back through a grueling licensure application. It is my intent by proposing SB 298 that the courtesy that was extended to Malissa Griffith be written into statute as a 30 day grace period so something like this does not occur again.

My office has been in contact with the Department of Public Health in reference to my proposal. They have indicated they would like the opportunity to be a party to any discussions regarding revised statutory language to ensure that the requirements are consistent with similar provisions for other licensed professions and that the grace period for renewal is also provided to individuals holding family day care home licenses.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal. I hope you see fit to support it out of committee.

Sincerely,

John A. Kissel  
State Senator-7<sup>th</sup> District